

Newport Town Council
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2018

RECORDER STOPPED RECORDING AND CAPTURED FIVE MINUTES AND 17 SECONDS OF THE MEETING. BEYOND THAT, MINUTES ARE TRANSCRIBED BY WHAT WAS WRITTEN BY TOWN MANAGER KING IN HER PERSONAL NOTES.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Michael Spencer. He announced that the meeting was in compliance with the Delaware Open Meeting Act.

Attendance: Mayor Michael Spencer, Vice Mayor John Joswick, Town Manager Wendy King, Commissioner Tim Chatburn, Commissioner Florence Czerwinski, Commissioner CarolAnn Gretz, Acting Police Chief Mark Wohner, Solicitor Chris Griffiths

Minutes from the September 20, 2018, meeting were approved via motion by Vice Mayor Joswick and seconded by Mayor Spencer. All ayes.

Public Comment - Bill Lower, Harvey Hanna & Associates, thanked the town for their assistance in the DE Kids Fund 5K held every August. He noted that he would be in contact with Town Manager King about the funds they offer to our commissioners to be used for donation purposes. He presented a flyer announcing that the DE Kids Fund will be camping out again this year in the lot across from James Street Tavern, Operation Warm Newport. This fundraiser provided each student at Richey School with a new coat in 2017. For 2018, they would like to expand their range and supplement a coat closet at Richey School and offer coats to one school in Red Clay school district and one in Christina school district.

Correspondence - Town Manager King received several FOIA requests that were forwarded to Solicitor Griffiths. Mayor Spencer received information from the Delaware Bike Council notifying the town that we were awarded a grant for \$20,000 to have a feasibility study done regarding a connector bike path to the new Markell bike path.

Town Manager King reported that she, Mayor Spencer, Commissioner Czerwinski and Commissioner Gretz attended a Board of Adjustment workshop. An update was provided on 102 E. Ayre Street and the issue with a tenant's dryer. James Street bridge work will begin in Spring, 2019. Upcoming fall cleanup with Waste Management. Waste Management will be meeting with the town in the future to discuss the cleanup and the possibility of changing the method in which the household items are picked up and streamlining their processes similar to what is being done in other towns. Will provide update after the meeting takes place. Court revenue is down from this time last year.

Acting Police Chief Wohner reported monthly departmental statistics. The department was awarded a \$40,000 SLEAF grant to cover the cost of in-car cameras.

Alderman's Report - \$26,414 in fines and costs for September.

Maintenance Report - Signs were put in at S. Marshall Street and E. Ayre Street (children playing/street sign). New Castle County Special Services scoped the catch basin at W. Ayre Street that a resident complained about not draining since the road was redone. There was a break in the pipe across the street at the Amtrak property line where a concrete ballast was placed.

Code Enforcement - Monthly report submitted.

Solicitor - Worked on FOIA request for police department, FOIA requests for administration, monition of property for delinquent tax payers, employment issue, encroachment issue.

Commissioners - Commissioner Gretz asked about the status of Board of Adjustment structure. Implementation of "no trucks" "no buses" going down S. Walnut to E. Ayre. Acting Chief Wohner advised he would visit the bus yard and speak to someone.

Mayor Spencer reported that First Responders Day was a nice event and well-attended. He noted that he would contact the county to discuss lighting for the new James Street Bridge as only one fixture out of four would be located in town limits.

Commissioner Gretz advised that there was water leaking on Market Street near the fire hydrant. Code Enforcement advised that the leak was the property owner's responsibility and that the water company had notified the owner in writing and that the owner was contracting with a service to fix the problem.

There was no new business.

Vice Mayor Joswick made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Chatburn seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.